

From: Tonitrus
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:07am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I do not think the Microsoft settlement will help customers.

Any reasonable solution must have ways for Windows programs to work on other Operating Systems, as Microsoft used its monopoly to get all of those programs over to the Windows platform.

Also, the solution should allow users to choose what products they are purchasing, and not Microsoft.

I personally believe that Microsoft should release the source code to Windows. This would allow the WINE (Wine Is Not an Emulator) project to fully emulate Windows, and allow Windows programs to run on anything that WINE itself will run on.

This would also aptly punish Microsoft for its actions.

The Windows source code should be put under the GNU Public License. This should be done for several reasons:

If Microsoft released Windows source code, they would immediately go back and start the same process over again, so that their next version could be properly rigged. (Undocumented APIs, for example). The GNU license would allow anyone to take any good points that Windows might have (I don't really know of any), and incorporate them into better things. Also, if the Windows code was under the GPL, Microsoft would have to release the source code with every release of Windows.

This would be the most effective way of shattering Microsoft's control of the OS market, and it would severely weaken them against their main competitor, Linux, which, due to the fact it lives off the GPL, would be able to appropriately absorb any necessary features that Windows could have. If the code were freely available, users would be able to decide for themselves what to get, by downloading the code, or getting it from a friend (legal under the GPL).

This is the most effective way of breaking Microsoft's monopoly on the OS market. Not only should the code be made available, but it should be GPL'd.

The effects of this are very useful, and beneficial to everyone, except, of course, Microsoft. Also, the insult of having their OS GPL'd would put the message across very clearly to them.

excelsior,

Dustan Bower
315 Ladd rd.
Fishersville, VA
22939